

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SP-02 AID-05 /047 W
-----151147Z 088911 /12

R 151100Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1090
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 2985

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, BR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF DANIEL L. HOROWITZ, USG REPRESENTATIVE TO
ILO

REF: STATE 49411

1. SUMMARY. DURING HIS TWO DAY VISIT TO BRASILIA, HOROWITZ
DISCUSSED THE US POSITION ON THE ILO WITH THE MINISTER OF
LABOR, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, OFFICERS IN
CHARGE OF ILO AFFAIRS IN BOTH MINISTRIES AND ONE OF THE WORKER
DELEGATES TO THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE. GOB OFFICIALS INDICATED
SOME DISSATISFACTION WITH THE INCREASING POLITIZATION OF THE
ILO IN RECENT YEARS BUT WERE GENERALLY NONCOMMITAL ON PROSPECTS
FOR SUPPORTING US INITIATIVES. HOROWITZ EMPHASIZED BRAZIL'S
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STAKE IN EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL NATIONS BY COMMITTEE ON APPLICA-
TION OF CONVENTIONS AND OBSERVANCE OF ESTABLISHED ILO
PROCEDURES ON RESOLUTIONS TO CONDEMN. VISIT HAD SALUTARY EFFECT
OF REMINDING BRAZILIANS OF COINCIDENCE OF US AND GOB INTERESTS
IN ILO AND REAFFIRMED IMPORTANCE THAT US ASCRIBES TO ILO.

END SUMMARY.

2. LABOR MINISTER ARNALDO PRIETO RESPONDED CORDIALLY BUT NON-COMMITALLY TO HOROWITZ'S PRESENTATION. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN AND SOME SYMPATHY FOR US POSITION WITH REGARD TO RECENT TRENDS IN THE ILO, MENTIONING THAT BRAZIL HAD HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH THE ORGANIZATION IN THE PAST BUT RELATIONS WERE NOW IMPROVED. THANKING HOROWITZ FOR THE BRIEFING, PRIETO EXPLAINED THAT DECISIONS ON POLITICAL MATTERS WITHIN THE ILO FALL PRIMARILY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHILE TECHNICAL MATTERS ARE LEFT TO LABOR, BUT THAT THE TWO MINISTRIES WILL COORDINATE CLOSELY ON BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY-GENERAL RAMIRO GUERREIRO, WHO COORDINATES BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN UN AGENCIES AND CONFERENCES, EXPRESSED PERSONAL AGREEMENT WITH US ASSESSMENT OF PROBLEMS AND OBJECTIVES. AS FORMER AMBASSADOR TO GENEVA HE WAS ALSO GOB PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO AND SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS IN 1972. IN THIS CAPACITY, GUERREIRO SAID HE BECAME DISTURBED BY THE DEGREE TO WHICH NONPOLITICAL MATTERS WERE SUBJECT TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. JOAO BAENA SOARES, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING MEETING WITH GUERREIRO. SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCLUDED BY SAYING ONLY THAT GOB WILL TAKE US EXPRESSION OF CONCERN AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT UNDER OFFICIAL CONSIDERATION BUT CAN OFFER NO FORMAL COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME.

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 2985

4. ARY CAMPISTA, LABOR DELEGATE TO THE 1976 ILO CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENT OF LARGEST BRAZILIAN (GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED) TRADE UNION FEDERATION, PROFESSED STRONG SUPPORT FOR US CONCERNS AND OBJECTIVES. CAMPISTA COMPLAINED THAT TSE "SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" RATIFY CONVENTIONS THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF UPHOLDING WHILE "DEMOCRATIC NATIONS LIKE THE US AND BRAZIL" ARE ABUSED FOR THEIR HONESTY IN REJECTING THOSE CONVENTIONS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THEIR OWN "ECONOMIC/POLITICAL REALITIES." HE ALSO VOICED CONCERN WITH THE INEQUALITY OF TREATMENT BY COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS, WHICH HE SAID SINGLES OUT SOME COUNTRIES FOR CITATION WHILE NEVER COMMENTING ON ABUSES IN EASTERN EUROPE. CAMPISTA EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE ILO WOULD FALL UNDER "COMPLETE SOCIALIST DOMINATION" SHOULD THE US WITHDRAW. (COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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DESPITE HIS FORTHRIGHT BACKING FOR US POSITIONS, CAMPISTA OR ANY OTHER BRAZILIAN LABOR DELEGATE IS UNLIKELY TO DEVIATE FROM WHATEVER POSITION IS ESTABLISHED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY END COMMENT.)

5. BECAUSE OF THE HOLY WEEK HOLIDAYS, HEADS OF MAJOR BRAZILIAN EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS WERE AWAY FROM BRASILIA AND NOT AVAILABLE TO MEET HOROWITZ. EMBASSY OFFICER DID CALL ON FLAVIO BRITO, 1976 EMPLOYER DELEGATE TO ILO CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE, THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND RECEIVED ASSURANCE OF SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE FOR THE US POSITION, WITHIN THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. BRITO, WHO IS ALSO A FORMER FEDERAL SENATOR, TOLD THE EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTS TO ATTEND THE JUNE 1977 CONFERENCE AND HOPES TO SEE ILO TRENDS OF RECENT YEARS REVERSED.

6. AT A LUNCHEON AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE DR. MARCELO PIMENTEL, LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND FORMER GOVERNMENT DELEGATE TO ILO CONFERENCES, OFFERED A SYMPATHETIC ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION BUT ADDED THAT OTHER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WILL ALSO INFLUENCE BRAZIL'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO US INITIATIVES. (IN THE PAST, PIMENTEL HAS EXPRESSED PERSONAL ENDORSEMENT FOR THE STATUTORY CHANGES FAVORED BY THE US). PIMENTEL MENTIONED, AS HE OFTEN DOES, THAT THE GOB DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT HAS A GREAT STAKE IN THE ILO AND THEREFORE WILL PROBABLY WAIT UNTIL JUNE BEFORE COMMITTING ITSELF TO ANY SPECIFIC COURSE OF ACTION.

7. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BRAZILIANS ARE BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE ILO BUT ARE NOT WILLING TO TAKE ANY POSITION IN AN ORGANIZATION OF ONLY MODES IMPORTANCE TO THEM IF THEY JUDGE IT TO INVOLVE UNDUE RISKS. WHETHER BRAZIL SUPPORTS THE US WHEN THE ISSUES COME TO A HEAD IN JUNE AND AFTERWARD WILL PROBABLY DEPEND ON THE OUTCOME OF THEIR VERY CAREFUL ASSESSMENT AT THE TIME OF THE CONSENSUS OF THIRD WORLD VIEWS, PARTICULARLY ARAB AND AFRICAN, ON THE ISSUES.
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IF THE TREND AMONG THIRD WORLD STATES IS TO OPPOSE THE US POSITION, THEN THE BEST WE COULD EXPECT FROM BRAZIL IN A VOTE FOR THE RECORD WOULD PROBABLY BE A POLITE ABSTENTION. EVEN SO, WE THINK THE HOROWITZ CONSULTATIONS WERE USEFUL. THEY MADE THE BRAZILIANS MORE AWARE OF THEIR OWN STAKE IN THE ILO, ENCOURAGED THEM TO THINK MORE IN TERMS OF THE PARALLELISM OF THEIR INTERESTS AND OUR OWN, AND POINTEDLY REMINDED THEM THAT, IN DECIDING THEIR POSITION, THE ILO ISSUE IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE US. EMBASSY PLANS TO FOLLOW-UP HOROWITZ VISIT BY PRESENTING AIDE MEMOIRE SUMMARIZING OUR CONCERNS TO FONMIN WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH. END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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